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ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

1951

ABERYSTWYTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health Dr. D. I. Evans,
Ph.D.(London.); B.Sc.(Wales);
M.R.C.S.(Eng.); L.R.C.P.(Lon.).
(Resigned 30th September, 1951).

Medical Officer of Health Dr. I. Morgan Watkin,
Ph.D.(Lond.); M.Sc., M.B.,
B.Ch., D.P.H.(Wales).
(Appointed 1st October, 1951).

Chief Sanitary Inspector O. R. N. Hoskins,
Housing Inspector, Inspector M.R.S.I.
of Meat and other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector... A. Jones,
and Housing Inspector. (Appointed 17th May, 1951).

To The Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Aberystwyth Borough Council.

P R E F A C E

In accordance with an agreement entered into with the county council and the other district councils of the county under Section 111 of the Local Government Act, 1933, the post of assistant county medical officer and medical officer of health to the nine district councils came into being on October 1st last. As a consequence, Dr. D.I.Evans who had held the post of medical officer of health to the Borough of Aberystwyth for eleven years, ceased to hold office. Dr. Evans had served the authority with distinction during a period when many additional burdens were thrust upon him. During the war the Borough was a reception area for evacuees, and in the year 1946 a public health problem of considerable gravity suddenly confronted the local authority. When I assumed office, I wish to state that I received every assistance from Dr. Evans with a result that I rapidly obtained a broad outline of the problems which I was likely to encounter.

The post of additional Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector was created during the year. Mr. Aneurin Jones, who had previously served under the Borough of Islington, was appointed to the new post and he assumed duties on July 9th.

The vital statistics for the year compare very favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole. The number of deaths registered during the year was 147, of whom 70 were males. Heart disease accounted for 50 deaths whilst cancer, in its various forms, was the cause of death in a further 27 individuals. Twenty three persons succumbed to vascular lesions of the nervous system - a group which includes such conditions as cerebral haemorrhage. Diseases of the respiratory system such as bronchitis, influenza and pneumonia, took a toll of 16 lives, whilst tuberculosis claimed a further 4 victims. Four deaths were attributed by the Registrar General to violence. No mother died as a result of childbirth, nor was any death attributed to diphtheria or to any other infectious disease other than tuberculosis.

Sixty boys and seventy girls were born during the year. There were five stillbirths and two infants under the age of four weeks died.

The ensuing tables give more detailed information regarding the social conditions, the births and the causes of death.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,141.
Population (Registrar General's 1951 Mid-year estimate) ..	10,620.
Population (1931 Census)	11,211,
Rateable value at 1st April 1952	£66,807.
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st May 1952	£269.

Number of premises of various types as recently
assessed by the Valuation Department of the
Inland Revenue.

a. Houses	2,440
b. Shops	260
c. Offices	34
d. Banks	4
e. Cafes	15
f. Clinics	2
g. Depots and Warehouses	58
h. Stables, Stores etc.,	32
i. Hotels	49
j. Hostels	9
k. Schools	4
l. Camping Ground	1
m. Hospitals	3
n. College Educational Buildings	13
o. Industrial Bakeries	29
p. Markets and Halls	5

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of registered live births (Legitimate	124	59	65
(Illegitimate	6	1	5
Number of registered stillbirths	2	-	2
Number of registered deaths	147	70	77
Number of deaths of women ascribed to			
Childbirth	Nil	-	-
Number of deaths of infants under 1 year ...	2	-	2
Number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks ..	2	-	2
Arealcomparability factor for births =	1.00		
Arealcomparability factor for deaths =	0.85		
	<u>Aberystwyth</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	
Crude live birth rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year population =	12.2	15.5	
Adjusted live birth rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year population =	12.2	-	
Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year population =	13.8	12.5	
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year population =	11.7	-	

Vital Statistics are intended to be a measure of the health of a community and, for this purpose, one must be able to make valid comparisons as between one part of the United Kingdom and another. To enable these comparisons to be carried out, the Registrar General calculates arealcomparability factors. If, for example, one wished to find whether Bournemouth was a healthier place than the new town envisaged at Stevenage, one of the factors which would assist in reaching a conclusion would be the death rates in the two places. The death rate, in its crude form, is the number of registered deaths per 1,000 of the population. On this basis, Bournemouth would have an exceptionally high death rate as the number of persons who retire and come to live in the town is very considerable. The death rate in the new town of Stevenage would be remarkably low as its inhabitants would be mostly young persons who are not likely to die for thirty or more years. To overcome these anomalies, the Registrar General has calculated the proportion of persons in the various age groups in the United Kingdom as a whole. The degree by which the age group composition of any town differs from the national average is adjusted by applying the appropriate areal comparability factor. Thus, if Aberystwyth had an age-group composition identical with that of England and Wales as a whole, the number of deaths likely to have occurred in the Borough would only be 85% of the actual numbers observed.



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In this connection it is not without interest to compare the age-group composition of the population in the nine district council areas of Cardiganshire. From the ensuing table it will be noted that Aberayron Urban District has the greatest proportion of elderly persons and Cardigan Borough, the least. With the exception of Cardigan Borough, Aberystwyth has, therefore, the least proportion of elderly persons in the county.

Table showing the distribution of elderly persons in the populations of the district councils of Cardiganshire as assessed from areal comparability factors for deaths issued by the Registrar General.

Proportion of elderly persons in the population.		District Council.	Areal Comparability factor for deaths assessed as a percentage.
(1)	Greatest	Aberayron Urban District	62
(2)	-	Aberystwyth Rural District	69
(3)	-	New Quay Urban District	72
(4)	-	Aberayron Rural District	74
(5)	-	Lampeter Borough	76
		Tregaron Rural District	76
(7)		Teifiside Rural District	77
(8)	-	Aberystwyth Borough	85
(9)	Least	Cardigan Borough	87

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CERTAIN DISEASES

	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Heart Disease	50
Cerebral Haemorrhage	23
Other diseases of Circulatory System ..	4
Cancer	27
Nephritis	4
Tuberculosis of Lungs	3
Tuberculosis other than Lungs	1
Pneumonia	5
Bronchitis	7
Ulcerated Stomach and Duodenum	2
Diabetes.	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	-
Congenital Malformations	-
Suicide.. .. .	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the notifications of infectious disease, other than tuberculosis, received during the year:

Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	Nil
Dysentery (amoebic and bacillary).	..	..	..	..	Nil
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	Nil
Food poisoning	..	..	..	..	Nil
Malaria..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Measles..	..	..	..	..	169
Ophthalmia neonatorum	..	..	..	..	Nil
Paratyphoid fever..	..	..	..	..	5
Pneumonia (acute primary and acute influenzal)	..	..	..	..	Nil
Polioomyelitis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Puerperal pyrexia..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Relapsing fever	..	..	..	..	Nil
Scarlet fever.	..	..	..	..	Nil
Typhoid fever.	..	..	..	..	Nil
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	9

No case of small pox or of any other of the Convention diseases was notified during the year.

Under the Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951, leprosy became directly notifiable to the Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health.

It will be noted that an outbreak of measles occurred in the Borough. The outbreak commenced, during the autumn, in the Penparke area and gradually spread to Trefechan and eventually to the town centre.

Earlier in the year five cases of paratyphoid occurred among members of the same family. Investigations revealed that the family had been in close contact with a person who had come from an infected area further north and had consumed food brought from the same locality. No further cases occurred and the Health Department came to the conclusion that the source of infection lay outside the Borough.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 17 new notifications of tuberculosis - an increase of 12 over the previous year. Whether this increase is real or whether it is due to better ascertainment, it is difficult to state.

The sex-age group distribution of the notifications is given in the ensuing table:

AGE GROUP	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 4	-	1	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	2	-
10 - 14	-	1	1	-
15 - 19	-	1	-	-
20 - 24	-	2	-	3
25 - 29	-	-	-	-
30 - 34	-	-	-	-
35 - 39	-	2	-	-
40 - 44	1	1	-	-
45 - 49	-	-	-	-
50 - 54	1	-	-	-
55 - 59	1	-	-	-
60 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	8	3	3

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172, of the Public Health Act, 1936.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

- (a) An ante-natal and post-natal clinic is held fortnightly at the County Offices, Aberystwyth.
- (b) Infant welfare clinics are held twice weekly at the County Offices and fortnightly at the Neuadd Goffa, Penparke.
- (c) The domiciliary midwifery service is carried out by two district nurses who are also certified midwives.
- (d) Two health visitors are resident in the Borough.
- (e) Home nursing is in the hands of two district nurse midwives and a third State Registered Nurse who devotes here entire time to general nursing.
- (f) Vaccination is carried out by the person's own medical attendant but immunisation against diphtheria is performed partly by the former and partly by medical officers of the local health authority.
- (g) The headquarters of the ambulance service are situated in Aberystwyth.
- (h) Arrangements for the prevention of illness consist in periodic talks and advice given by the staff of the local health authority. Care and after care are in the hands of the health visitor and the district nurse. Tuberculosis cases are also followed up by the Chest Physician's health visitor.
- (i) Domestic help is provided by suitable persons engaged locally.
- (j) The principal general hospital in the county and the maternity home are situated in the Borough. The infectious diseases' hospital lies within a short distance of the town at Tanybwllch.

Public Health Laboratory and Blood Transfusion Services.

The Area Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council is housed at the General Hospital. Its services, which are provided free of charge, include the bacteriological examination of waters, articles of food including milk and ice cream and the testing of clinical samples suspected of harbouring the organisms of infectious disease. The services of Central Reference Laboratories, which specialise in a particular branch are also available.

A blood bank is being operated at the Aberystwyth hospital under the aegis of Dr. H. V. M. Sudds of the Medical Research Council. Blood is, therefore, immediately available in cases of serious accident or of haemorrhage in childbirth as well as for persons suffering from severe anaemia who would otherwise be unable to withstand surgical operations of a serious nature.

Mobile units of the National Blood Transfusion Service (Wales) visited Aberystwyth twice during the year. Through the courtesy of the Council, the clinics were held at the Town Hall. The number of persons who gave blood was 178 and of these a large proportion consisted of college students. Cardigan Borough, whose population is but a third of that of Aberystwyth, provided 116 donors during the year. The record of Aberystwyth in this respect does not, therefore, compare very favourably with that of the Borough of Cardigan.

WATER

The maxim that "eternal vigilance is the price of safety" applies to public water supplies more than to any other article of food or drink, for water is consumed by everybody. As a consequence, the Health Department takes two samples of water per week from various parts of the town and submits them for bacteriological analysis to the Medical Research Council's Area Laboratory.

The presence of the germ Bacillus coli of faecal type indicates that human or animal excreta, or both, are gaining access to the water. The former condition is grave for, under such circumstances, water-borne diseases such as typhoid or dysentery may break out. As some sheep graze in summer near the reservoir at Llyn Llygad Rheidol it is inevitable that some faecal coli of animal origin should enter the water. An unsatisfactory sample is, therefore, immediately followed up but in each case the subsequent results have proved satisfactory.

Being an acid moorland water, it is highly corrosive of various metals and alloys. It should, therefore, be treated before final discharge into the mains. The marble chips, at present, in use have little or no therapeutic effect - a view which is endorsed by the reports received from the public analyst. As the water is not filtered, there is little doubt that a number of minute animals which live in lakes eventually find their way to the domestic tap.

An analysis of the samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors yielded the following results :-

WATER SAMPLES

Number of samples taken during 1951 109

<u>Samples Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Bacterium coli</u>	<u>Faecal coli</u>	<u>Non-faecal coli</u>
21.7.51. Tap, 3 Marine Terrace,	20	2	0
28.8.51. Tap, British Railways Restaurant,	8+	2+	0
28.8.51. Tap, Express Cafe, Alexandra Road,	8+	2+	0
6.9.51. Tap, Ashley's Factory, Bath Street,	5+	2+	0
6.9.51. Tap, Town Hall,	5+	2+	0
<u>Samples Insufficiently Chlorinated.</u>			
27.9.51. Tap, Penguin Cafe, Pier Street,	2	0	0
27.9.51. Tap, Lorne Dairy, St. James' Square,	2	0	0

Summary of Samples.

Highly satisfactory	..	..	..	..	102
Insufficiently Chlorinated	..	..	..	..	2
Unsatisfactory	..	..	..	..	5
					<u>109</u>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The Council granted me authority to apply for orders under Section 47 of the above enactment as amended by the Act of 1951. The section relates to persons who are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

No action was required to be taken during the year.

GENERAL

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is being appended as a separate item. From his comments, with which I associate myself, it will be noted that, among other things, the condition of the slaughter house leaves much to be desired. On the other hand, the increased attention paid to hygiene by traders in and manufacturers of ice-cream has raised the standard of the ice-cream samples taken in the town.

Although there were imperfections in the sanitary sphere, the general health of the community, as judged by vital statistics, continued to be good.

I. MORGAN WATKIN.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Cardiganshire Joint District Councils,
Swyddfa'r Sir,
Aberystwyth.

October, 1952.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To The Mayor, Aldermen and
Members of the Aberystwyth Borough Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my contribution to the Annual Report of the Public Health Department, and the details in the subsequent pages indicate the work carried out and the achievements of the Department in the directions for which I am responsible during the year.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Staff for their loyal and enthusiastic co-operation throughout the year, and to express to the Council, thanks for their confidence and support in the work which we carry out.

STAFF.

The staff of the Department consists of :-

Mr. O.R.N.Hoskins,	.. ..	Chief Sanitary Inspector
Mr. A.Jones,	.. ..	Additional Sanitary Inspector
		(Commenced duties 9th July, 1951)
Mr. W.D.James,	.. ..	Clerical Officer
Mr. C.Y.Jones,	.. ..	Rodent Operator.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Enforcement.

Complaints received	154
Preliminary Notices served	66
Preliminary Notices complied.	42
Statutory Notices served	5
Statutory Notices complied	32

Number of houses inspected	191
Number of houses re-inspected	165
Number of visits for infectious disease	41
Dairies, Milkshops and Purveyors.. .. .	21
Ice Cream Premises and Vendors Vehicles	126
Food Shops, Stores and Markets	95
Railway Station re food.	5

Factories :-

Non-Power,

Bakehouses.	11
Bootmakers.	1
Dress makers and Milliners	2
Laundry	3
Miscellaneous	<u>42</u> .. 59

Power,

Bakehouses.	6
Bootmakers.	3
Dress makers and Milliners	3
Laundry	1
Miscellaneous	<u>19</u> .. 32

Offices.. .. .	3
Tents, Vans, Sheds or similar structure	16
Public Houses.	72
Water Supply.. .. .	109
Tips	3
Accumulations.	9
Sewers	3
Drains	80
Public Urinals	11
Cesspools	1
Visits not classified	21
Number of houses found verminous.. .. .	9
Number of houses where vermin was abated	9
Number of premises inspected for rat infestation.	24

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Houses.

Walls repaired	8
Outside plastering repaired.. .. .	9
Inside plastering repaired	5
Roofs, renewed or repaired	12
Chutes, downpipes or gutters renewed or repaired.	11
Ceilings repaired.. .. .	4
Window sashes or frames renewed or repaired.	1
Window cords renewed	1
Grates or ovens repaired or renewed	2
Walls or ceilings cleansed and re-decorated.	5
Rooms treated for vermin	6
Yard paving relaid or repaired	2
Accumulations removed	6
Water taps or pipes repaired.	1
Miscellaneous repairs and nuisances	2

Drainage.

Drains tested - Smoke.	2
- Chemical	6
- Water.	16
Drains re-laid or repaired	8
New drains constructed.. .. .	1
Drains cleansed	1
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	7
Soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	5
Gullies fixed.	2
Troughs provided	1
Troughs trapped or waste pipes repaired	1
Lavatory basins provided	2

W.C.'s.

Additional W.C.'s provided	1
W.C.'s re-constructed	1
New pans and traps fixed	3
W.C.'s cleansed	2
Flushing apparatus provided.. .. .	3
Miscellaneous repairs	11

MEAT INSPECTION.

The animals slaughtered and inspected at the Abattoir during the year were as follows :-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Aberystwyth Abattoir.</u>					
Number of animals killed ...	921	3002	10,505	302	<u>14,730.</u>
<u>All Diseases except T.B.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	57	36	66	16	26,528 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	659	22	1,329	39	13,776 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	77.73%	1.932%	13.27%	18.22%	
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	3	-	4	2,436 lbs.
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	33	-	-	13	2,519 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B. ...	4.01%	.09%	-	5.628%	
<u>Total weight of meat condemned</u> .. .. .	..	..	..	..	<u>45,259 lbs.</u>

The presence of *Cyticercus Bovis* was discovered in sixteen carcasses of Beef during the year and the meat treated by the Ministry of Food, in accordance with routine before marketing.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Meat and meat products condemned (outside Abattoir)

Fresh and canned	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,635 lbs.
Fish, wet condemned	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	616 lbs.
Canned and miscellaneous foods other than meat						..	..	..	..	3,120 lbs.
Total of foodstuffs condemned outside Abattoir						..	..	..	..	6,371 lbs.

ICE CREAM.

A steady improvement in bacteriological quality has been evident and comparison with the two previous years reveals the drop in samples of Grade 2, 3 and 4, with a corresponding increase in Grade 1.

There are still some open barrows in use, but sales of ice cream from loose sources do not appear to be great and the public are tending to favour the wrapped article to and increased degree.

110 visits have been made to ice cream premises and especially local manufacturer's establishments.

Number of Ice Cream premises in area of Local Authority 39.

Number of manufacturers of Ice Cream 7.

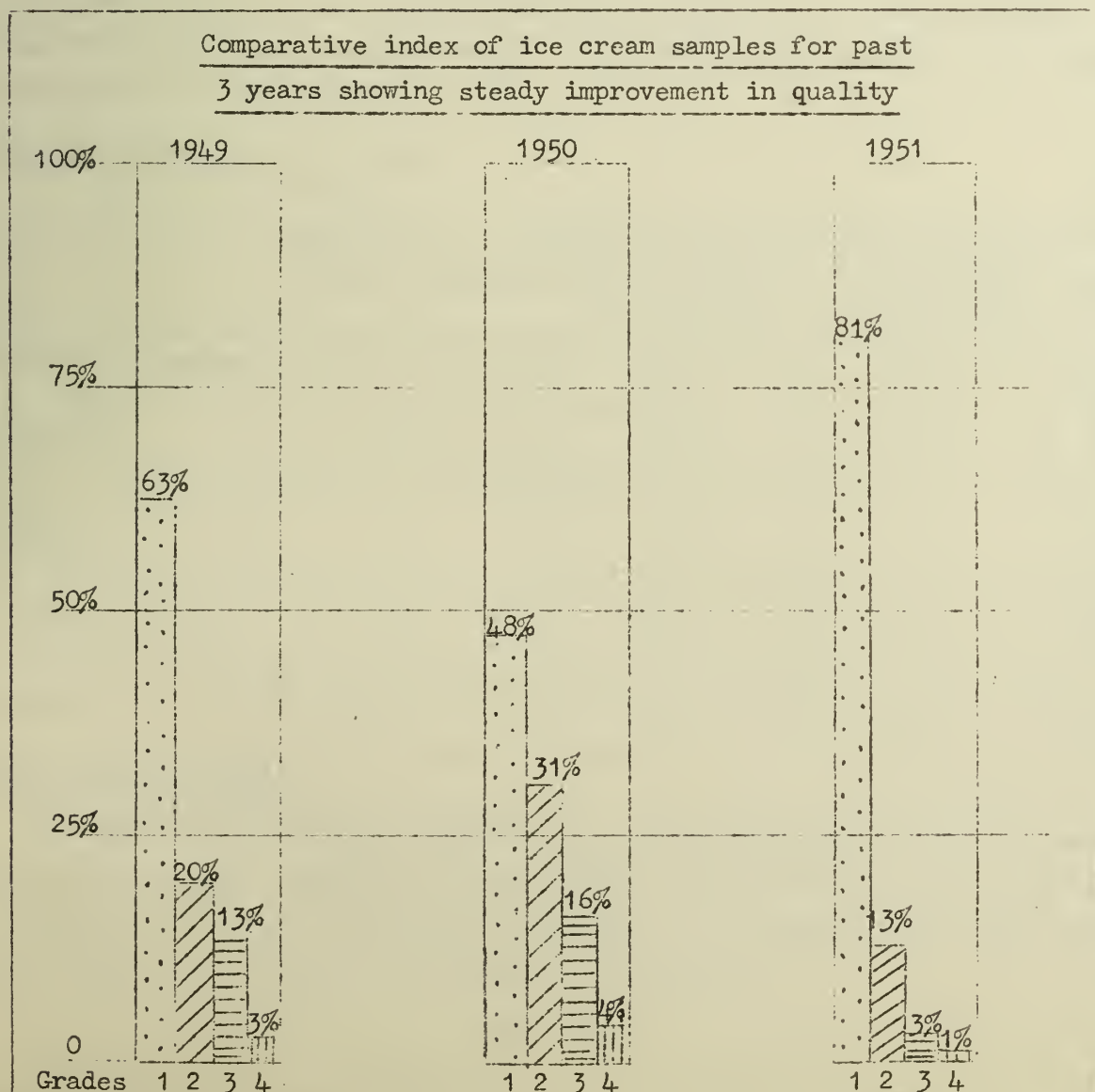
Hot mix process (Pasteurising)

Cold mix (Complete cold mix)

The remaining 32 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream supplied to them by manufacturers.

During the year 101 samples of ice cream were taken, and the following results were obtained :-

Grade 1	82	=	81.19%	= 95.06%
Grade 2	..	..	..	..	14	=	13.87%
Grade 3	..	..	..	..	4	=	3.95%
Grade 4	..	..	..	..	1	=	.99%



RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION (PEST ACT 1919)

The rodent operator has been engaged on sewer treatments twice during the year and he has renewed many ropes and trays in the manholes. The work involved is carried out by the operator and a labourer loaned by the Borough Surveyor, to assist in removal and replacement of covers etc. Part of the sewers in the old area around the Town Clock, are not accessible through lack of manholes, but no additional infestation has been found as a result. During the year 453 manholes were inspected and treated for rodent infestation and two of the six areas into which the town is divided were found to be sufficiently free of rats to justify the Ministry of Agriculture's recommendation that only a token treatment of 10%, need be carried out in parts of the next disinfestation.

Further extensive rat-proofing has been carried out in a food shop, and together with relaying of new drains the work cost approximately £600, and as a result, one of the worst areas of infestation has now been eliminated. A large former hotel, one of the largest buildings in the area, has been freed of infestation and reduced the surrounding infested properties considerably. Three shop premises have been structurally repaired and new drains laid - thus cutting off access from sewer to surface.

Complaints are not numerous but all are followed by inspection and treatment as necessary.

Co-operation between the County Agriculture Committee Pest Officers and the Department, has been most useful, and the relationship extremely cordial. Joint visits have been made to agricultural and horticultural premises and suitable action taken as appropriate.

Summary of Properties in area.

	Owned by Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (Local Authority and Private)	Other premises (Business and Industrial)	Total
Number of Premises	12	2462	689	3175
Inspected	12	188	120	320
Seriously infested by Mice	2	12	6	20
Infested by rats	9	111	71	191
Treated	11	123	77	211

Block control schemes.

Block surveys have been carried out, and the town area is being inspected on a 100% coverage. Property in three areas of the town centre has been surveyed for infestation and action taken as necessary. It is however noticeable that no heavy degree of infestation has yet been discovered.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Frequency of collections

The refuse of the Borough is collected weekly, and in certain cases more frequently as necessary, by the Borough Surveyor's Department.

It is perhaps unavoidable, but during holiday periods the routine becomes difficult and several occasions have occurred where refuse has remained for a further week before collection could be arranged.

Ashbins.

In 1950, the Council, adopted the principle of providing proper refuse bins in accordance with their powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, but no steps have been taken to enforce these powers and the odd collection of baths, pails, drums, casks, boxes etc., which are used to hold refuse pending collection is a mute reminder.

Refuse Vehicle.

There are periodical complaints from members of the public that open uncovered vehicles are being used for collection of refuse, and it is not easy to explain that the contents are either trade refuse or salvage, or that a vehicle is broken down. The remarks received from the public are usually pointed, and they expect the Public Health Department, to act and prevent an offensive recurrence.

Disposal - Tipping.

The complaints of noxious effluvia and unsightly appearance of the present site at Plas Crug, are unfortunately only too familiar, and there is at present no immediate alternative to the use of the site pending an incinerator and new tip, or a new controlled tip, or possibly sea disposal in deep water. The lack of covering material for the tip is doubtless a major difficulty and the extensive tipping "frontage is an additional problem. The fly nuisance is still a summer problem and despite regular treatment the rat problem does not drop below a minor degree of infestation, though this is not increasing. An unusual feature associated with the open face tipping has been the presence of large flocks of sea gulls, which devour as much consumable refuse as they can reach.

DISINFESTATION.

Disinfestation was carried out on ten premises during the year for the eradication of bugs, cockroaches and ants.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises as the result of infectious disease was carried out in twenty-two dwellings during the year.

ABATTOIR.

The number of visits to carry out inspection duties rose to four hundred during the year and were necessitated by the steady increase in killing and the inspection of every animal carcass which is brought forward for proposed human consumption. A total of such numbers indicates that not all the meat was for local consumption, and the original apportionment of the local allocation in the ratio of one third to country butchers and two thirds to town butchers group, is not quite a correct picture.

For most of the year a weekly kill carrying between two hundred and four hundred sheep is made for direct transmission to Smithfield, London, and in addition a large proportion of the live calves formerly sent to Neath, and other abattoirs are now slaughtered locally.

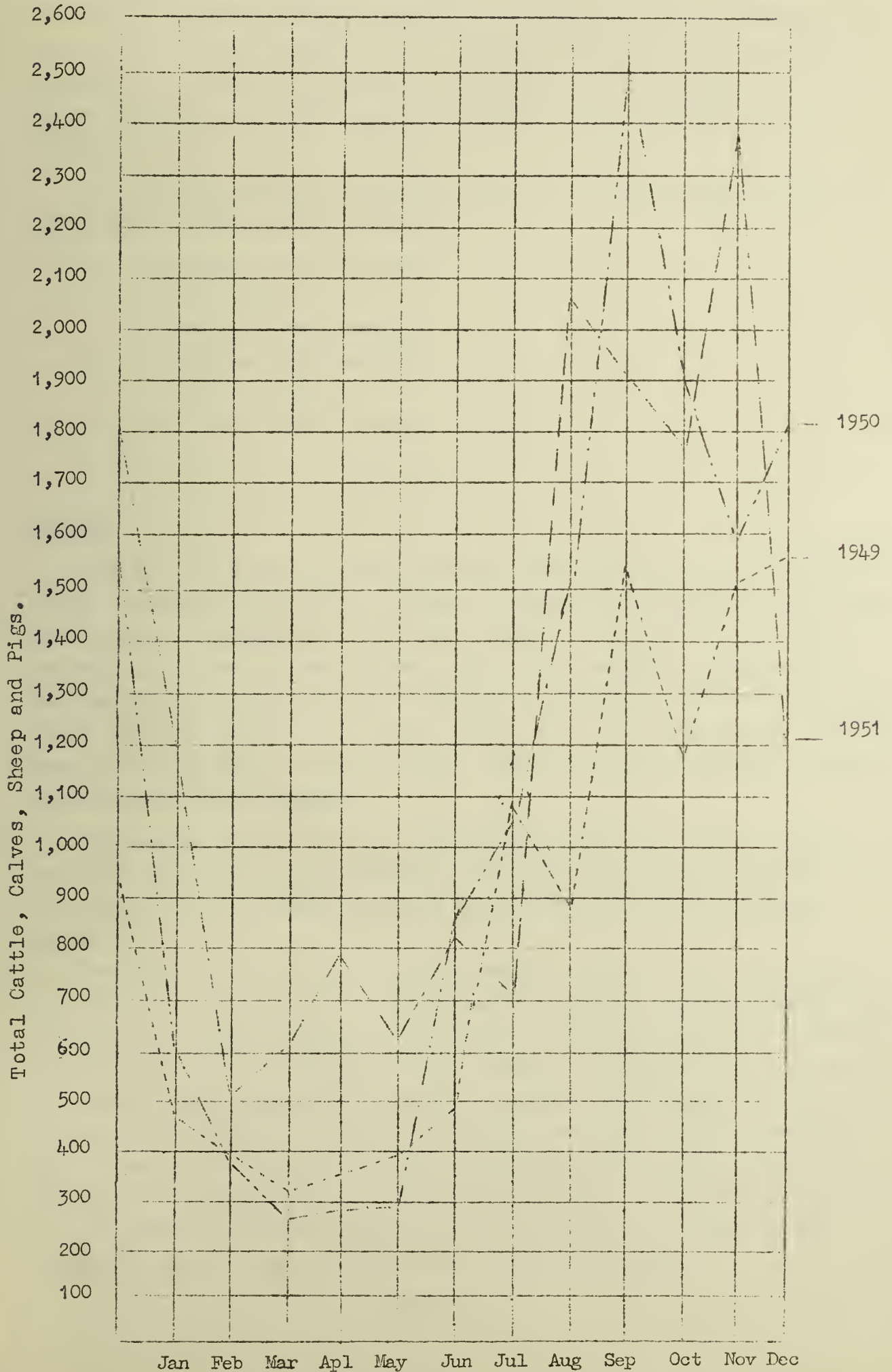
This "export" slaughtering means increased work for the slaughtermen, additional work for the attendant, and of course much longer sessions of meat inspection. The time spent on this work is considerable and much of it is evening duty, and by reason of its regularity it is unpopular for it takes up three evenings per week during autumn and winter months, and at least two per week during the rest of the year.

The accommodation for the meat inspectors has now been much improved and it is satisfactory as a result of the conversion of the old weighing room, and the installation of lighting, heating and cleansing facilities.

During the year an attempt was made to draw attention to the conditions at the abattoir, and the urgent need for improvements to filling facilities, lairage rearrangement, offal storage and gut cleaning, with general improvement of meat storage and hanging accommodation. The storage of condemned meat and offal was also regarded as unsatisfactory. As the result of a report, the Health Committee, visited the premises whilst killing was in progress, and later the Town Clerk, was instructed to draw the attention of the Ministry of Food, Guildford, to the conditions as existing and to ask for their observations on proposed improvements. The result was non-effective, and conditions exist which could be readily improved, though at some considerable cost. There is a justifiable sense of grievance by the contractors to the Ministry of Food, the slaughtermen, and other persons who have to carry out duties therein and it is obvious that improvement is urgently required.

ABATTOIR.

The rise in animals killed continues and is indicated by the graph which shows total of animals killed during each of the last three years. It is of interest to note the peak months.



AMUSEMENT AND PUBLIC HOUSES.

The Licensing Justices, called for a report on the conditions appertaining to various premises within the Borough, and a visit was paid to each of the premises to check-up sanitary arrangements, washing facilities in bars and the provision of hot water supplies. As a result the Justices, expressed themselves concerned, and asked for improvements. Towards the end of the year a further report was asked on the same group of premises, for the Licensing Meeting in February, 1952.

As a result of action initiated previously, and work completed during the year, the following progress was made.

Additional W.C.'s provided	19
W.C.'s repaired	15
Lavatory basins provided.. .. .	4
Washing-up sinks provided.	2
Urinals provided.. .. .	39
Hot water supply provided to bars. ..	2

HOUSING.

The position showed a slight improvement during the year and the smaller family units represent the bulk of those now awaiting rehousing. An interesting fact is that the majority of the housing applicants have two or less children, but during the year 125 new applicants came on the register. Very few of the housing applicants appear able to undertake the erection of their own dwellings and no doubt the shortage of suitable private sites within the Borough, and the heavy cost of building on sloping ground together with the development charges all contribute to the problem.

The present tendency to erect two-bedroomed dwellings is quite popular and if it were possible to construct semi-detached two-bedroom dwellings there is no doubt that the combination would solve fifty per cent of the present demand.

The County Council, hold delegated powers under Part II. of the Housing Act 1949, in connection with the improvement of existing housing accommodation, but little or no advantage appears to have been taken in connection therewith, despite advice given to numerous persons owning or contemplating the purchase of houses. It does appear that when the interested owner fully understands the circumstances inevitably attached to financial grants, the interest wanes and this appears to be encouraged by the comparatively small return which can be obtained after improvements have been effected, and is linked with rent control.

New dwellings completed during the year totalled 14, of which 12 were constructed by the Local Authority, and 2 for private owners.

FACTORY ACT.

Every factory, of which there are fifty-five power and thirteen non-power categories, has been visited during the year, and steps to remedy contraventions taken as appropriate. For its size, Aberystwyth, has a considerable number of factories, and the common trouble is neglect to keep sanitary conveniences clean. Some are most unsatisfactory, and the attention of occupiers has been drawn to the fact, with a request for attention. A number of small concerns established during the war years, and immediately thereafter, have ceased operations and the premises are now in other occupations.

SHOPS ACT.

Inspections have been carried out at a number of shops to ascertain the provision of sanitary accommodation. A complete inspection has not been possible due to other duties, but it is hoped to follow up this aspect of the work at the earliest opportunity.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There are eight dairy farms in the district, and milk production thereon is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Dairies, (not being dairy farms) total nine and Distributors, number sixteen. Twenty-one visits were made to dairies and milkshops, and the premises found satisfactory.

A considerable proportion of local milk is delivered by rail from Newtown and Carmarthen dairies, whilst local farms produce the rest of the Borough supplies.

Steps have been taken to clean up minor contraventions, and the milk vendors are very co-operative and helpful.

SANITARY INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION, 58th ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Margate - September 10th - 14th.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector attended and the proceedings were opened by His Worship the Mayor of Margate, Ald. C.B.Hosking, J.P.

The Presidential Address being given by J.C.Dawes Esq., C.B.E., M.I.Mech., F.S.I.A., and the following papers were used as a basis for discussion.

"Some Thoughts on Environmental Health from an International Point of View" by Dr. Melville D. Mackenzie, C.M.G., a Principal Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Chief United Kingdom delegate World Health Assemble 1951.

"Housing; Repair and Improvement" by Edmund P. McGlynn, Senior Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Darwen.

"Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses" by G.R.Oake Esq., Chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee on Meat Inspection.

"Towards Clean Food" by S. Cayton, M.R.S.I., M.Inst. F., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Colne.

"Education; The Food Handler and the Public" by F.R.Jefford Esq., F.R.S.I., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Cheltenham.

"Hygiene in Food Handling" by Dr. Alec Lerner, Chairman, Hygiene Committee, Marks & Spencer Ltd.

"Environmental Hygiene - Some Possible Trends" by A. Archer., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Halesowen.

The Conference, was a most useful series of discussions and lectures, each highly specialised and excellently delivered, and leaving a sense of time well and usefully spent studying the various subjects presented.

This concludes my report.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,



Chief Sanitary Inspector.

